

Casmalia Resources Superfund Site—ROD Signing Event Talking Points

Site Specific Talking Points:

- The Casmalia Resources Superfund Site is a complex 252-acre site that contained various waste management areas that resulted in a mix of contaminants entering the groundwater, surface water and soils.
- The company operated from 1972-1989.
- By the time the company ceased operations, it had received more than 5.6 billion pounds of waste.
- In 1992, EPA stepped in and began emergency response work helping to stabilize the site through continued critical maintenance and monitoring activities until it was officially placed on EPA's National Priorities List, or NPL in 2001.
- Many successes have already been achieved at the site since it was listed on the NPL, including implementation of interim actions to protect of the public.
- Landfills have been capped; open pits, ponds, and lagoons have been reconsolidated and closed; and liquids collection treatment and disposal systems have been established.
- Today we are here to announce the end of one chapter in Casmalia site's history and the beginning of a new one that will bring us closer to the finish line.
- EPA is here to announce the selection of the final cleanup and closure plan for the Casmalia Resources Superfund Site which includes further capping of waste disposal areas, removal of contaminated liquids and soils, and the design and construction of an upgraded groundwater collection and treatment system.
- Our goal is to complete this work in the next five to six years. This will involve detailed engineering design that will be followed by construction of new systems.
- Once the systems are up and running, EPA will ensure they will operate correctly and provide long-term protection to public health and the environment.
- This is a great day for EPA, our partners, and especially for the nearby communities of Casmalia, Guadalupe, Santa Maria, and Orcutt that will greatly benefit from today's action.

Stakeholders to acknowledge:

- I want to thank the local community for your tireless efforts and for working closely with EPA throughout this process.
- Of course, we wouldn't be here without the close collaboration with our partner agencies and local community representatives that have supported these efforts all these years.
- I want to thank the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- I also want to thank the Casmalia Steering Committee (better known as the CSC) who have been instrumental in running day-to-day operations at this site and who will continue operations at the site for years to come.
- It is important to also acknowledge the contractors who have worked so conscientiously. We wouldn't be here without your boots on the ground.
- I also recognize the efforts of our own EPA employees who have worked on Casmalia for the past 30 years -- from the early stages, later during the emergency work and most recently overseeing site investigations and interim actions.
- Finally, I want to thank Administrator Pruitt, who understands the important work that needs to be done at Superfund sites nationwide.
- Through his Superfund Task Force effort, we are identifying and expediting remediation at sites like this to protect the health of surrounding communities and eventually revitalize these properties.